THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the growth of deposits of the Public Sector Banks during the year 1986 and 1987, over the previous year, was 18.3% and 15.1% respectively. In this connection, it may be stated that the deposit growth in banks is influenced *inter alia* by the overall economic growth inflation rate, consumer surplus etc. The year 1987-88 was considered to be a year affected by widespread drought. However, vigorous deposit mobilisation efforts on the part of the Nationalised banks and the rationalisation of interest of certain categories of time deposits effected by Reserve Bank of India last year enabled the banks to maintain reasonable rates of growth of deposits despite competition from other attractive savings instruments in the market such as Public Sector Bonds, National Savings Certificates and Indira Vikas Patra.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India advised all banks not to pay brokerage on deposits in any form to any individual firm, company, association and institution. However in case of daily deposit mobilisation schemes, Banks are allowed to pay commission to the agents provided the rate of interest payable on that deposit plus commission does not exceed the rate of interest prescribed in Reserve Bank of India directives on interest rates on deposits.

Dhilka Lake

3816. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Orissa Government for desiltation of Chilka Lake by dredging ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Central Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was to acquire two dredgers and to have two cuts one at Magarmukh and the other just North to Satpara. The total cost including survey and maintenance was projected as Rs. 12.60 crores over a period of five years.

(c) It has been conveyed to the State Government of Orissa that this is too large a programme to be accommodated under the wetland scheme. A list of illustrative schemes which can be considered under the Central Wetland Programme has also been sent.

Restructuring of Rural Economy

3817. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up any new credit plan for restructuring the rural economy in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what is the percentage of rural population to be benefited by the qualitative change in the economy ; and

(d) whether any survey was conducted in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) It is presumed that the question relates to the Service Area Approach under which each village will be allotted to a rural or semi-urban branch. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks on the implementation of service area approach which involves assigning of specific villages to individual bank branches located at rural and semi-urban centres. The guidelines, *inter alia*, involve survey by the branch of all villages allotted to it for assessing the